

## SICILIAN LIMES

An opera in one act  
Libretto by John Scrimger  
(adapted from "Lumie di Sicilia" by Luigi Pirandello)  
Music by Dominick Argento  
1st representation: New York, New York City Opera, 1-10-1954

### Cast of characters (voice)

Micuccio Bonavino, a band musician (*baritone*)  
Aunt Marta, mother of Sina (*contralto*)  
Sina Marnis, a singer (*lyric soprano*)  
Ferdinando, a butler (*tenor*)  
Dorina, a maid (*soprano*)

### Today - A large city

SCENE - A kitchen of a large, expensive apartment.  
All the right, somewhat to the rear, a kitchen worktable.

Nearly, along the walls, shelves and cupboards.

Center a partition and recess for the door  
leading to the dining-room.

As this door opens and closes, the table can be seen richly set  
and lighted by many candles and a large chandelier.

To the left, downstage, the servants dining table  
of varnished wood. Against the left wall a closet.

The back entrance to the apartment in through a door  
to the extreme right. The room is illuminated by shaded  
electric lights, and, over the dining table, by a hanging lamp.

### SICILIAN LIMES

#### SCENE ONE - Dorina and Ferdinando.

The two servants are seated at a table. Ferdinando is trying  
to explain a card game to Dorina. He is in shirt-sleeves,  
but has only to put on his jacket to be ready to serve.  
Dorina is wearing a black uniform with white apron.

#### Curtain

**Ferdinando** - Don't get excited

It's all very simple

If you'd only pay attention

**Dorina** - Don't get excited

I'm sure it is simple

If you'd only be calm and explain it all

Step by step.

**Ferdinando** - How do you expect me to explain

If you're thinking of fixing the tables and mixing the drinks?

**Dorina** - How do you expect me to learn if you shout at me?

How anyone can live with you

Is something I'll never understand!

**Ferdinando** - You understand so little that doesn't surprise me!

**Dorina** - How don't get excited.

It's all very simple

Try it again

**Ferdinando** - We're at least another hour before we have to serve

It's all very simple [the food.]

If you'd only pay attention.

Just follow the order of rules that I gave you.

Diamonds and Spades, and Hearts and Clubs.

They're all the same in order of importance.

**Dorina** - But Hearts are sort of nice to have around.

**Ferdinando** - Pay attention!

All the suits must together

Starting from the scale of their importance.

Ace, Deuce, Trey, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten, Jack,  
Queen, King.

**Dorina** - Ace, Deuce, Trey, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine,  
Ten, Jack, Queen, King.

**Ferdinando** - The object is to get a set of five

The points are won according to the card;

If I should have a set of five

And if...

**Dorina** - And if the cards you have are suits the same as mine...

**Ferdinando** - Now you've got it!

The value of remaining cards decides

Who gets the points in that particular hand.

Do you think you understand?

**Dorina** - Well, let's try it out,

**Ferdinando** - It's all very simple.

(*shuffling the pack of card*) Just plain logic,

You can't go wrong.

I'll explain the complications as we go along. (*ritts cards; dealing*)

(*spoken*) One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight.

**Dorina** (*alluding to the Jack of Hearts*) - He wouldn't so bad, you  
If his nose were not so straight. [know,

**Ferdinando** - I am not supposed to know

What you're holding in your hand!

**Dorina** - Don't get excited

It's all very simple.

**Ferdinando and Dorina** - Life should be as simple as a game of

**Ferdinando** - Do you think you understand? [cards.

Are you ready?

It's your play. (*they begin to play*)

**Dorina** - What's this? (*she shows him the Joker*)

**Ferdinando** - Oh, that!

I forget to tell you:

That changes everything.

Don't get excited.

It's all very simple.

**Dorina** - It's all very simple,

He tells me

Don't get excited.

**Ferdinando** - Things are just the same as they were before

Just like a clock striking twelve

Only now it's midnight

Instead of noon.

Things are just the same as they were before.

**Dorina** - Ace, Deuce, Trey, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine,  
Ten, Jack, Queen, King.

**Ferdinando** - Ace, Deuce, Trey, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight,  
Nine, Ten, Jack, Queen, King.

But, this card is free

He can be anything

You want him to be.

If the Joker's along

Your cards can be anything

The game can't go wrong.

If your opponent has the card

When you're not on your guard

He can ruin your game

But things are the same

As they were before.

Do you think you can do it?

**Dorina** - Well, there's no harm in trying. (*they begin to play*)

(*The doorbell rings, Ferdinando goes out to answer it; Dorina  
looks at her cards, mystified. An idea strikes her; she extract the  
Joker from the pack, puts it in a strategic place, looking very plea-  
sed. Ferdinando returns, closing the door after him*)

#### SCENE TWO - Dorina, Ferdinando, Micuccio.

**Dorina** - Who is it?

**Ferdinando** - Fellow, says he's related, to the Signora.

**Dorina** - What's he doing at the back entrance?

What's his name?

**Ferdinando** - You should see him!

Says his name is «Bonvicino, Micuccio Bonvicino».

(*Door opens slightly, Micuccio peers round*)

**Micuccio** - Excuse me, Bonavino, Micuccio Bonavino.

(*he closes the door again*)

**Dorina** - Let him in.

See what he wants.

*(Ferdinando opens the door: Micuccio Bonavino enters)*

**Micuccio** *(to Ferdinando)* - Thank you.

*(to Dorina)* Thank you.

**Dorina** - You say that you're related to the Signora?

**Micuccio** - Related? Not exactly related,  
You see, I'm Bonavino, Micuccio Bonavino.  
She'll know who I am.

**Dorina** *(a Ferdinando)* - You can't let him in.

**Ferdinando** *(to Dorina)* - I thought he was a relative.  
He asked for Aunt Marta.

*(to Micuccio)* I'm afraid you can't stay here, my friend.

**Micuccio** - But I have come all this way just to see her!

**Ferdinando** - But you don't go calling on people at this hour!

**Micuccio** - Well, what could I do? Tell me,  
What could I do?

The train just came in.

Could I tell it to go faster?

Go faster! faster! faster! faster!

A train is a train.

It arrives when it arrives

And it can't arrive before.

A train is a train.

You can tell a horse go faster.

Now a horse you can control with a whip or a rein.

But a train is a train.

Now, with a woman... But excuse me,

That's something else again...

I've been traveling two days.

**Dorina** - You don't have to tell us that!

Ugly, my friend, no offense!

**Micuccio** - Heavens! Is it that bad?

How do I look?

**Ferdinando** - Look here, you'd better get out.

Come back...

**Micuccio** - Get out? But where would I go?

**Ferdinando** - But she is at the theatre. I...

**Micuccio** - I'll wait. I'll wait.

**Ferdinando** - I can't let you wait.

I don't know who you are!

**Micuccio** - Bonavino, Micuccio Bonavino.

**Dorina** - Bonavino, Micuccio Bonavino!

**Ferdinando** - Bonavino, Micuccio Bonavino!

Now look...

**Micuccio** - I'll wait.

You'll see,

She'll be so surprised to see me.

**Dorina** - He's been traveling two days,

His name is Bonavino, Micuccio Bonavino,

A train is a train,

She'll be so surprised to see him.

You can't argue with him.

Everything he says is true!

Look here, there's doing to be a party tonight.

**Ferdinando** - A tremendous party!

**Dorina** - Oh, a tremendous party!

**Ferdinando** - An honorary dinner!

**Dorina** - It will finish at dawn! We hope!

**Ferdinando** - At dawn, we hope!

**Micuccio** - Better still

I'm sure that as soon as Teresina sees me...

**Dorina** - You hear that! "Teresina", if you please!

**Micuccio** - And why not?

Isn't her name Teresina?

Isn't she the singer?

**Dorina** - Right again! This fellow is sharp.

You know her well, then?

**Micuccio** - Teresina? Teresina and I grew up together.

**Ferdinando** *(to Dorina)* - What shall we do?

**Dorina** - Oh, let him wait.

**Micuccio** - Of course I'll wait.

I've come here...

**Ferdinando** - Just take a seat.

I'm going to put the glasses out now, then!

I won't be so rushed when all starts. *(he leaves)*

*(Micuccio sits down and looks around)*

**Micuccio** - The house, the lights, the table spread!

They live well you can see that!

**Dorina** - But look here, do you know who Sina Mami's is.

**Micuccio** - Sina? Oh, Sina is her name now.

Yes, of course.

Teresina, Sina. Ah, yes.

And Aunt Marta wrote me that.

Aunt Marta tells me everything.

**Dorina** - Wait a minute! You're...

**Micuccio** - Bonavino, Micuccio Bonavino.

**Dorina** - Hey, Ferdinando, you know who he is!?

**Ferdinando** - Don't tell me again!!!

**Dorina** - He is the one the mother always writes to:

The one who was so ill a while ago.

**Micuccio** - Yes. Very, very ill, almost dead.

**Ferdinando** *(wisely)* - Dead with candles lighted.

**Dorina** - She sent him money.

**Micuccio** - I have it here.

**Dorina** - You brought it back?

**Micuccio** - We don't talk about it.

How long will they be?

**Dorina** - Not long now.

God! Imagine this evening!

**Ferdinando** - Brava, brava! Encore, encore! Encore!

**Micuccio** - She as a wonderful voice, Teresina.

**Ferdinando** *(insinuating)* - Oh, yes... even her... voice...

**Micuccio** *(proudly)* - Well, I should know, it was all my doing.

**Dorina** - You discovered her voice?

**Micuccio** - Yes, you see, I'm a musician.

**Ferdinando** *(spoken)* - No!

What do you play? A trombone?

**Micuccio** - A trombone! No! A piccolo.

I play in the village band.

It will be good now.

I will be able to play in the orchestra.

**Dorina** - Oh... now I understand.

Go on, tell us how discovered her voice.

**Micuccio** - How I discovered it?

She was singing at the window...

**Ferdinando** - So you, being a musician, right away...

**Micuccio** - No! not right away... *(Ferdinando laughs)*

**Dorina** - Shut up! Let him go on.

**Micuccio** - She song high up there

And her voice fell down, as soft as lime flowers falling...

A voice from heaven!

An angel she was.

Quiet then, I climbed the stairs

And took her hand, saying nothing,

To see Saro Malaviti

An excellent musician,

A great maestro, Saro Malaviti,

The leader of our band.

He is very good friend,

Oh, a very great, great maestro.

So imagine my joy!

When she sang so well for him

That he took her in his arms

And said to her softly.

«A voice from heaven!»

Imagine the joy!

I bought a piano

Manuscript and music  
 In spite of opposition  
 My parents wouldn't have it  
 Aunt Marta didn't want it  
 But Saro Malaviti  
 He know what he was doing  
 He taught her how to sing.  
 I broke with all of them  
 With my mother... father... all of them.  
 And then a great maestro all the way from Naples  
 Came to our town and heard my Teresina sing  
 She sang so well for him  
 He took her in his arms  
 And said her softly  
 It would be a crime  
 If she couldn't come to Naples and learn how to sing.  
 I sold the farm my Uncle had left me  
 And sent her off  
 The rest you know  
 Naples and Rome...  
 Rome and Milan...  
 Russia and Spain...  
 England and France...  
 For years I have not seen her,  
 My Teresina,  
 And now I am here.  
**Ferdinando** - Well, my friend, if you...  
**Dorina** - Wait a minute!  
 Listen, signor Micuccio, did you come to marry Sina Mamis?  
**Micuccio** - I am here.  
**Ferdinando** - Santa Maria!!  
**Dorina** - Be quiet!  
 You don't know anything!  
 It was an understanding, don't you see.  
 Isn't that it, signor Micuccio?  
**Micuccio** - I say nothing,  
 All I say is I am here after four years of waiting.  
**Dorina** - But did Teresina ever write to you?  
**Micuccio** - Oh, yes.  
 In one of Aunt Marta's letters she put this in... just wait...  
*(He takes a worn letter from his pocket hands to Dorina)*  
**Dorina** *(reading it)*  
 «Dear Micuccio, I don't have time to write to you.  
 I am confirming everything Mama says.  
 Take care of yourself.  
 Get well soon, and love me.  
 Forever, Teresina.» *(Hand letter back to Micuccio)*  
 And do you?... do you love her?  
**Micuccio** *(taking the letter)*- Teresina? You make me laugh.  
 I am here. *(door bell ring)*  
**Ferdinando** - Here they come!  
**Dorina** - Are the glasses set?  
**Ferdinando** - Yes.  
**Dorina** - Are the candles lighted?  
**Ferdinando** - No, not yet.  
**Dorina** - You go along  
 I'll light the candles.  
*(Ferdinando takes jacket, throws it on, goes to answer the door)*  
**Dorina** - Wouldn't you know!  
 I forgot the soufflé!  
 What will she say?  
*(calling after Ferdinando)* Hey, Ferdinando,  
 Make those drinks strong!  
 Where are the Matohes?  
*(to Micuccio)* Look, sit over there  
 You'll be out of the way. *(She rushes out)*  
*(Throughout the beginning of Scene III, until Ferdinando and Dorina walk in and out of the room, passing with trays of drink, etc.)*

**SCENE THREE** - *Micuccio, Marta, Dorina, Ferdinando.*  
*There is a pause. Aunt Marta enters in opera cloak.*  
*She leans heavily against the wall. When she sees Micuccio she is thrown into confusion. He does not recognize her immediately.*  
**Marta** *(enters)* - Micuccio! Micuccio!  
**Micuccio** - Aunt Marta! You, like that!!  
**Marta** - But here! Without letting us know!  
 Tonight of all times!  
 Heavens!  
 Wait right here! Heavens!  
 What shall we do? What shall we do?  
 You see all the people are here!  
 It's a party.  
 They're giving a party... for Teresina.  
 Wait... wait here a minute! *(she goes out)*  
**Micuccio** - If you think I ought to go away...  
*(Marta doesn't hear him)*  
*(Marta, without gloves, hat, etc. is more composed)*  
**Marta** *(coming back)* So here I am... here I am.  
**Micuccio** - And Teresina? [she can.  
**Marta** - I told her you were here, and she will come in as soon as  
 She is in there with her manager.  
**Micuccio** - Ah.  
**Marta** - Yes, and lots of admirers.  
 Oh, very important, you understand.  
 They will have supper.  
 Oh, but how long it has been, Micuccio, so very long! *(she kiss him)*  
*(Dorina and Ferdinando have finished serving for a time and prepare to relax)*  
**Marta** *(suddenly)* - Have you had your supper?  
 Let me fix you something right away.  
**Dorina** *(to Marta)* - I'll set the table if you like signora.  
**Marta** - No, no, let me do it.  
 You go on I'll set it myself I still know how.  
*(Marta gets some things from the kitchen and sets the table)*  
**Marta** - Just the two of us,  
 Eh, Micuccio?  
 Just like the old days.  
**Ferdinando** - How about our game?  
**Dorina** - They'll ring I suppose it they want something more.  
**Marta** - First some wine.  
**Ferdinando** - They'll be drinking for a while yet.  
**Marta** - Ah, Micuccio  
 You look just the same!  
 I'll just sit here. *(Marta sits and makes a sign of the cross)*  
 I can do that here with you!  
**Micuccio** - And Teresina?  
**Marta** - As soon as she can!  
**Dorina** - Don't you want your dinner now?  
**Ferdinando** - Let's wait till later.  
*(Ferdinando goes to mix the drinks; humming)*  
**Marta** - But tell me the news!  
 Tell me the news! Tell me the news!  
 Remember when You'd came to see us?  
 Up those stairs,  
 All those stairs?  
**Micuccio** - Yes, I remember the stairs.  
 And the windows.  
 The swallows in the rafters.  
**Marta** - The swallows in the rafters.  
 Do you ever go there any more?  
**Micuccio** - Yes, I go there still.  
*(Ferdinando returns with two drinks)*  
**Ferdinando** - Here we are  
 Pick up your hand  
**Marta** - Are the swallows gone?  
**Micuccio** - And the swallows fly into the room  
 And round

And round

**Dorina** - I hope I can remember!

**Marta** - I remember! I remember!

**Ferdinando** - Things are just the same as they were before!

**Micuccio** - And right in our faces.

**Ferdinando** - Diamond and Spades, and Hearts and Clubs.

They're all the same

In order of importance.

**Dorina** - Yes, Diamonds and Spades, and Hearts and Clubs.

**Marta** - And Donna Annuzza?

Donn' Annuzza? (*Micuccio indicates "dead!"*) Dead?

I suppose I should have known.

Even then she was old.

**Marta and Micuccio** - Always coming in just as we were eating.

**Marta** - For the same old reason...

**Micuccio and Marta** - «Just a speck of garlic»,

«A speck of garlic»,

Poor Donna Annuzza!

**Dorina and Ferdinando** - All the suits must stay together.

Starting from the scale of their importance.

**Ferdinando** - Ace, Deuce, Trey, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten, Jack, Queen, King.

**Dorina** - Ace, Deuce, Trey, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten, Jack, Queen, King.

**Dorina and Ferdinando** - The object is to get a set of five

The points are won according to the card

**Marta** - But tell me the news!

Tell me the news!

Remember old Michela?

The wine she made?

Not like this!

Old Michela!

**Micuccio** - Yes, I remember the wine and Michela.

**Marta** - And her daughter Luzza did she ever marry?

**Micuccio** - Yes, she married Totò.

Do you remember? Do you remember?

**Ferdinando** - If I should have a set of five

**Dorina** - And if the cards you have are suits the same as mine...

**Ferdinando** - And if the cards I have are suits the same as yours...

**Dorina** - Now I remember! Now I remember!

**Ferdinando** - Now you remember! Now you remember!

The value of remaining cards decides

Who gets the points in the particular hand.

**Marta** - Yes, I remember! Yes, I remember!

**Micuccio** - He is a good man

And she is so happy

**Marta** - And the sweet basil that grew in my windows

**Micuccio** - And the sweet basil that grew in your windows

**Ferdinando** - It's all very simple,

Just plain logic.

I'll explain the complications as we go along.

**Dorina** - It's all very simple,

Just plain logic. (*Ferdinando and Dorina begin to play*)

**Marta** - Michela's wine that tasted of flowers

(*apart*) The stairs and the windows

The swallows and the wine.

**Micuccio** - Michela's wine that tasted of flowers

(*apart*) The stairs and the windows

The swallows and the wine.

**Marta** - Oh, Micuccio,

Why can't we return

I am too old to follow any longer

I want to go back if only to die...

**Micuccio** - The basil and the flowers.

All I have left to follow her voice...

(*A shriek from Dorina interrupts*)

**Marta** - Ah!!!

**Dorina** - Ah ah!!!

You thought you were so smart!

Well, there!

**Ferdinando** - But your cards are lower than mine!

**Dorina** - Except for the Joker.

Remember? He's free.

He can be anything I want him to be.

**Ferdinando** - I'll be damned!

**Dorina** (*mocking*) - Don't get excited.

It's all very simple! All very simple!

Just follow the order of rules that I gave you. (*Dorina laughs*)

(*A bell rings*) There it goes...

Put on your coat. (*Dorina and Ferdinando leave*)

**Marta** (*timidly*) - Some more wine, Micuccio?...

(*There is an awkward pause*)

**Micuccio** - No... I have enough...

How long will Teresina be?

(*Marta doesn't answer; she is greatly disturbed*)

(*Ferdinando returns with a tray of empty glasses: applause is heard the other room*)

**Micuccio** (*to Ferdinando*) - What is that?

**Ferdinando** - She's going to sing.

**Micuccio** (*to Ferdinando as he is going back into the room*)

Could you leave the door opened a little?

Listen... She's going to sing!

*SCENE FOUR - Micuccio, Marta, Sina's voice.*

**Sina** (*off stage*) - Although I know

It is only a dream

I will follow this love, follow this love.

It is only a dream! It is only a dream!

But this aura I feel is real...

**Micuccio** - Ah! Listen, listen... her voice...

My Teresina...

**Sina** - Is this the voice that fills your dreams?

Are these the eyes that see the dreams you see?

Ah, no! It is only a dream,

Only a dream!

But answer this voice with words of love

And create for these eyes the dreams you see.

Silence this voice

And close these eyes,

Ever though I will know

It is only a dream.

But answer this voice with words of love

And create for these eyes the dreams you see.

Silence this voice and close these eyes,

Even though I will know

It is only a dream.

Only a dream.

**Marta** - Is it a dream and nothing more

That brought you from our valley?

This voice you follow, is it real?

Or is this voice only a dream?

**Micuccio** - Aunt Marta be still!

Listen! Listen!

Ah! The days and weeks

I waited for this moment!

What was only a hope

Is now here beyond the door!

**Sina** - This is my song of love,

My arms reach out.

My lips will kiss.

Is it you, is it you?

Ah, no! Ah, no!

**Micuccio** - If I could see what now I hear.

**Sina** - Ah, no! Ah, no!

It is the shadow of my desire.

**Micuccio** - If I could only see your voice.

What a dream I would see!

When you are singing  
 The sun shines and the darkness  
 That was silence breaks.  
**Sina** - This passion that you feel, is it mine?  
 These arms, do they know the form they seek?  
 Ah, no! It is only a dream.  
 But no other love than this  
 And no other arms will keep this love  
 Nor hold me fast in their embrace  
 This is my song of love!  
**Micuccio** - Why will I need these eyes  
 When you sing at night  
 You appear in the light of noon.  
 Alone in a room  
 Your voice readnes me  
 And loneliness is no more.  
**Sina** - I do not sing your form or smile,  
 Neither your dreams,  
 Nor your tears  
 I sing only the shadow of my desire.  
 Ah! No! Ah! No!  
 This is my song of love!  
 It is a dream, only a dream!  
**Micuccio** - If I could see what now I hear  
 If I could only see your voice  
 Only the sound of your voice  
 Comes to me and my arms reach out.  
 When you sing the air is filled with you,  
 Teresina, filled with your body  
 And we are together,  
 Two alone and real!  
**Marta** - Oh, God! Let silence once again  
 Come in our life  
 A great silence of stone  
 Oh, God, let silence come!  
 Let us not hear a song!  
 Let us hear no song,  
 Even of sorrow,  
 Even sorrow  
 But a silence of sand.  
 If in my heart a sorrow comes  
 I will keep it hid but for the tears in my eyes.  
 Oh, God! Let us have no more song!  
 Let us have no more song!  
 Neither of happiness,  
 Neither of sorrow  
 And, oh God!  
 Neither of love, neither of love!  
 But only silence... silence...  
*(A wave of applause comes from other room. Marta suddenly rushes to the door; closes it, shutting out the sound)*  
 Her voice! You hear her voice.  
 But you don't see, Micuccio!  
 You don't see! Blind! Blind!  
 You look at me and say:  
 «Aunt Marta, you like that!»  
 And then you forget!  
 But I don't forget!  
 I pass a mirror, and what do I see?  
 An old women dressed for a carnival!...  
 You hear, Micuccio,  
 But you don't see.  
 You hear her voice  
 But you don't see her changing, changing,  
 Day by day  
 You don't see her up there,  
 High on the stage  
 Now dancer, now a queen

A saint one day, a savage another.  
 And then one day she stands at my side  
 I am not sure it is my daughter  
 I look in her eyes  
 A stranger! A stranger!  
 Who is it then, Micuccio?  
 She was my daughter...  
 You hear her voice  
 But you don't see a door that opens at night  
 Softly at first  
 And now!... And now!...  
 You hear but you don't see.  
 That is Teresina's voice,  
 But it is not Teresina who sings!  
**Micuccio** - Marta! Marta! What are you saying?  
**Marta** *(beyond noticing him)* - Poor Donna Annuzza...  
 And who knows how many more have passed away!...  
 Well, at least, those who die there  
 Can sleep in our graveyard with their own friends...  
 While!... Who can say where  
 I shall leave these old bones of mine? *(a burst of applause is heard from the other room, but goes unnoticed)*  
**Micuccio** - Marta!... Aunt Marta!...  
*SCENE FIVE - Micuccio, Marta, Sina.*  
*The door opens. Sina Marnis enters.*  
*She is wearing a white silk gown and many jewels.*  
*The room seems suddenly flooded with brilliant light.*  
**Sina** *(enters; spoken\*)*  
*\*The note values for Sina's speaking part are only approximate to indicate their location in the music. Limes should be spoken "senza rigore".*  
 Micuccio?  
 Where are you?  
 Ah, there he is...  
 Is everything alright?  
 You're well again!  
 Good, good... listen,  
 I'll be with you in a little while...  
 Right now Mama is here with you...  
 Alright?...  
 In little while. *(Sina leaves; light return to normal)*  
*(There is a long pause. Micuccio is astonished)*  
**Marta** *(timidly breaking the silence)* - Micuccio...  
 Just a little salad... some coffee...  
**Micuccio** *(not hearing her)* - A dream... her eyes... her voice...  
 It isn't she... it isn't she anymore... Teresina!  
 What a fool! What a fool!  
 They told me in the village...  
 All this way I'd come for this!  
 What a fool!  
 So that was why the waiter and the girl...  
 How could I know, Aunt Marta?  
 How could I know?  
 I was so far away... back in our village...  
 While she was going on... so far away...  
 So far... A queen!... A queen!  
 They thought I came here for money, that's it!  
 But you know better, Aunt Marta.  
 I came to give it back. Look! *(he throws a packet on the table)*  
 Money!! Money!! We don't talk about it!  
 I'll go away... You won't see me again.  
**Marta** *(very tired)* - Yes, yes, go, Micuccio!  
 She isn't worth it!  
 If you had only listened to me then.  
 She's no good!!  
**Micuccio** - What are you saying?!  
**Marta** - This stranger...  
 If she is not Teresina, who is she, then?

Not only different,  
Everything bad!  
That voice you hear can laugh while my cars are burning.  
And she is my daughter!  
**Micuccio** - My Teresina...  
**Marta** - If your Teresina passed along the street  
We old women back home would lower our eyes. *(weeps)*  
**Micuccio** *(stunned)* - Never mind!  
I am going just the same!  
*(he begins to gather his bag; notices the limes)*  
And here, Aunt Marta!  
I brought you these.  
Look! Limes!... Limes!  
Smell them, Aunt Marta,  
Smell our valley back home!  
*(he pours the limes on the table)*  
A queen!... A queen!...  
*(savagely)* A queen! A queen!  
**Sina** *(enters; spoken gaily)* - Micuccio!  
**Micuccio** *(savagely)* - Look at her! Arms! Breasts! Shoulders...  
**Marta** *(seizing her by the arm; indicating the décolleté)*  
Micuccio, please, please, for my sake, Micuccio!  
**Micuccio** - Everything! Everything!  
A queen! Ah! Ah!  
*(bitterly)* What would they call her back home, Aunt Marta?  
**Marta** - Micuccio, please!... please...  
**Micuccio** - One look and what would they call her?

But I thought she was a queen.  
You are right, Aunt Marta,  
Blind! Blind!  
You know what I should do, Aunt Marta?  
You know what I should do?  
Never mind!  
**Marta** - Please, Micuccio, please, please...  
**Micuccio** - You are right, Aunt Marta,  
She's not worth it!  
Oh, God!... what a fool!...  
Money, nothing... Nothing!  
Good bye, Aunt Marta... Nothing... *(Micuccio leaves)*  
**Marta** - No! Micuccio, Wait! Wait! Micuccio!  
*(Aunt Marta sobs profoundly)*  
**Sina** *(spoken)* - What are you crying for?  
Nobody asked you to cry.  
It's not my fault, is it?  
Well is it?! *(Sina looks down at limes; suddenly picks them up in her arms. Aunt Marta makes a gesture of protest, then covers with her arms look at the size of them! Those Sina is unable to carry. Sina runs to the door)*  
Max, Max! Look what I have! Limes!  
All the way from Sicily!  
Riccardo, look! Limes! Limes!  
**Curtain**  
Sept. 1952 / Feb. 1953 - Hampton, Virginia  
**End**